FBIS DAILY REPORT

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REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL APPROVES TREATY ON SOVIET TROOPS

LD041914 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 4 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] has approved the agreement concerning the conditions for the temporary stay of the limited Soviet military contingent on DRA soil, which was signed between the DRA and the USSR governments. This agreement has also been approved by the DRA Council of Ministers and its legal steps have been passed.

TASS Report on Treaty

LD041858 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1847 GMT 4 Apr 80 LD

["The Treaty Has Been Ratified"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, 4 April, TASS--The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified the treaty between the Government of the USSR and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] on the conditions for the temporary stay of a limited contingent of Soviet forces in DRA territory.

KARMAL MEETS WITH CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER MALMIERCA

LD061752 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The Information Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports that Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, this afternoon received Malmierca Peoli, foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba and the special envoy of His Excellency Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers of the Republic of Cuba, and the delegation accompanying him, at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

At this meeting, topics concerning the regional and international situation and also those topics which interest both countries were discussed. At this meeting, 'Abdol Majid Sarboland, minister of information and culture; 'Abdol Hadi Mokammel, deputy political minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the members of the delegation accompanying his excellency the foreign minister of the Republic of Cuba and the ambassador of that country to Kabul were present.

KABUL REJECTS IRANIAN CHARGES OVER GAS CONTRACT WITH USSR

LD062250 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] In connection with the Iranian declaration regarding the price defined in the Afghan-USSR contract concerning the delivery of Afghan natural gas to the USSR for 1980, authorized officials of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] have explained the following in answering the questions of a BAKHTAR reporter:

Afghanistan's natural gas reserves were discovered by USSR geologists, and the gas extraction and chemical fertilizer plant which use the gas as its raw material was constructed and equipped with the technical and financial cooperation of the USSR. Soviet experts are extending invaluable assistance and aid to the DRA in extracting and producing from the gas reserves, and this assistance has been made possible by the fact that the natural gas is extracted by modern [word indistinct] techniques.

A while ago a new gas reserve was put into production in Gerqoduq [district] in the DRA with USSR technical and financial assistance. In this reserve, units for extracting sulfur from the gas have been installed. Placing this reservoir into operation has helped increase the volume of Afghanistan's natural gas output and has raised state income from the value of the gas.

Exporting natural gas to the USSR is beneficial to the DRA. Because of the short distance between the Afghan gas reserves and the Afghan-Soviet border, capital investment expeditures for gas pipelines has been considerably decreased. The construction of compressor units to move the gas has decreased gas wastage along the line of transfer. This fact in general enables the DRA to gain more profit from exporting every 1,000 cubic meters of natural gas to the USSR compared with the profits of other gas-exporting countries. This is so because they must spend much money to move gas great distances, to extend 1,000-km pipelines and to install large numbers of compressor units.

Exporting natural gas to the USSR is a very important and ever-increasing source of state income for the DRA. In 1977-78 general state income from the sale of natural resources, among which natural gas held first place, was more than 2.6 billion Afghanis, which was 15 percent of the total normal budget income of the DRA. In 1980-81 income from this source will reach 8.7 billion Afghanis, an increase of 35 percent in the total normal income of the DRA. Therefore, exporting gas to the USSR has made it possible to use the extra income from this source in developing the nation's economy up to 1980.

Prices for Afghan natural gas were fixed in the Afghan-USSR contracts according to agreement on both sides and based on the price of Iranian gas which is exported to the USSR. At the same time the price of Afghan gas usually was a little lower than Iranian gas, because Iranian gas has more BTU's than Afghan gas. Since Iran has not been able to reach agreement with her buyers regrading new price levels for her gas, recently an agreement was reached between representatives of Afghanistan and the USSR concerning the definition of natural gas prices based on the average gas prices that are valid in Western Europe.

In the Afghanistan-USSR contract concerning natural gas delivery for 1980, the price of gas has been set at $83.37 per 1,000 cubic meters. Considering modification for the amount of BTU's with the level of gas prices in Western Europe, this price is completely parallel. For example, until early 1980, Dutch gas, which compares in BTU's to Afghan gas, sold at an average price of $73.75 per 1,000 cubic meters in other West European countries. Gas produced in the North Sea sold at the approximate price of $77 per 1,000 cubic meters to West European countries. Recently, based on this approximate price level, USSR natural gas sale contracts have been signed with West European countries.

Considering the above explanation, it can be seen that rumors by the Iranians to the effect that in the recent contract between Afghanistan and the USSR the natural gas price is unjust and has been defined to the benefit of the USSR is completely groundless. The aim of such rumors is to cast suspicion on the advantages of mutual trade and economic relations between Afghanistan and the USSR and to disrupt the friendship between the peoples of the USSR and the DRA.

USSR HELPING WITH NAGHLU-JALALABAD POWER PROJECT

LD060312 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Summary] Minister of Water and Power Paktin inspected the Naghlu-Jalalabad power transfer power from the Naghlu power station to Jalalabad city, located 97 km from the Naghlu station. "A source at the Ministry of Water and Power said: This project is being built with the aid of the country's friend, the USSR. With the completion of this project the power requirements of the people of Jalalabad will be met."

FOREIGN MINISTER DOST LEAVES KABUL ON MIDEAST TOUR

LD041944 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 4 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost left this morning for Algeria at the head of a delegation which will pay friendly visits to several Arab countries. At Kabul international airport, the delegation was seen off by Justice Minister 'Abdorrashid Arian; minister of border affairs, Fazih Mohammad; minister of commerce, Mohammad Khan Jalalar; the political deputy of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, 'Abdol Hadi Mikamel; the chief of protocol and some high-ranking officials of the Foreign Affairs Ministry; the Libyan charge d'affaires in Kabul and other members of the Libyan Embassy.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM TALKS IN BANGKOK, MANILA

LD042126 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1730 GMT 4 Apr 80 LD

[Summary] "The Afghan delegation, headed by the deputy minister of planning, Fateh Mohammad Salim, who had gone to Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, to take part [words indistinct] returned to Kabul this morning."

Salim told a BAKHTAR reporter at Kabul airport that the Bangkok conference discussed economic matters for 1980 and approved future development strategies. The proposal of the Afghan delegation was approved by most of the delegates. The Afghan delegation informed the conference of the DRA's future transpoetation plans and once more insisted on Afghanistan's active and positive neutrality.

The delegation also went to Manila for a discussion with the Asian Development Bank, and it was agreed that a delegation of this bank will visit Afghanistan in the near future.

WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR GDR MEETING

LD070439 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Sorayya, president of the Democratic Women's Organization of Afghanistan, left for the GDR this morning at the head of a delegation that will participate in a meeting of the bureau of the International Democratic Federation of Women. Jamila Palwasha, candidate member of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee and member of the Revolutionary Council, and a number of the members of the leadership and officials to the delegation at Kabul international airport.

ROAD, FIVE BRIDGES RECONSTRUCTED IN BAMIAN PROVINCE

LD060322 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The noble people of the Bolowleh and Shebar areas of Bamian Province, with the help of the soldiers of the armed forces, police and the officials of the [word indistinct] of Bamian, have started work on the reconstruction of roads and bridges, which had been destroyed by counterrevolutionary elements. They worked with patriotic feeling, revolutionary fervor and indefatigable effort. As a result of this collective work, so far the main road between central Bamian and the Shebar Pass has been repaired and five primary bridges which were destroyed by the counterrevolutionary elements--these recognized enemies of the toiling people of Afghanistan--on the orders of their imperialist (?masters) have also been reconstructed.

RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT OUTLINES VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

LD070404 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Here is an announcement of the Recruitment Department of the Ministry of Defense:

The armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, which have heroically defended every inch of this sacred soil, are a crushing fist to the heretics, the sworn enemies of the homeland, international imperialism--led by U.S. imperialism in alliance with Chinese chauvinism--regional reaction and black internal reaction and will eternally take pride in this. This is why, for the development and strengthening of the armed forces and for the purpose of liquidating the internal and external enemies of our proud homeland, Afghanistan, in a very short time it was decided that all 12th grade graduates who have not served in the armed forces yet and are not under conscription could volunteer for service in the armed forces and obtain release after 6 months. Also, NCO's and soldiers who have already served for 2 years in the armed forces and have obtained their discharge papers will be employed for a monthly salary of 3,000 Afghanis plus clothing, food and free medical treatment of 1-year volunteer contracts. During the year they will also receive a 1-month salary bonus.

1,100 FAMILIES RETURN TO HOMES IN GHOWR PROVINCE

LD070339 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] In the atmosphere of peace, compromise, sincerity and brotherhood that has been realized after the new stage of the Sawr Revolution between the government and the oppressed people of Afghanistan, the links are daily becoming stronger and the government and people, in a common way, are striving toward the development and progress of the country.

Due to this confidence and trust, in the course of the return of people who were oppressed and persecuted in the reign of the bloodthirsty Amin, more than 1,100 families--consisting of 8,100 persons--have returned to their homes in the districts of Ghowr and commenced their peaceful life without any fear. A BAKHTAR reporter reports from Chaghcharan that, by the return of the persecuted people of (Marghab), (Jandab), Shur Ab, (Samaq), (Labak), (Wazan), (Ghal) and (Siagak), life has started stirring in these areas and the people, united among themselves and with the party and government officials, have started their daily work. The BAKHTAR reporter adds: A great number of religious leaders and elders, on behalf of the residents of the villages, each of whom bears the wounds of Amin's fascist behavior in his heart, have come to Ghowr Province and have expressed to the governor their unreserved support of and solidarity with the new stage of the Sawr Revolution under the leadership of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and the guidance of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister. They have declared their deep hatred of the destructive actions of the enemies of Afghanistan, especially the continuous interference of the U.S. imperialism and its Chinese and Pakistani allies and lackies.

REPORTAGE ON ARMY, REBEL SKIRMISHES

Hezb-e Eslami Attacks

OW061759 Paris AFP in English 1602 GMT 6 Apr 80 OW

[Text] Islamabad, April 6 (AFP)--Moslem rebels destroyed a power plant in Parwan Province south of Kabul, plunging the town of Ghorband into darkness, the rebel group Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan said today.

During the night-time attack two days ago, the rebels killed one security guard and captured three Soviet-made guns, insurgent sources said. It was not immediately clear how long the town was without electricity.

Another group of Moslem rebels fighting in nearby Samangan Province attacked a Russian convoy and seized supplies destined for Soviet troops, the sources said. But, they added, infuriated Soviet soldiers backed by Afghan Army troops "reacted strongly" and attacked the rebels' stronghold in the area, destroying many villages by air raids. The Moslem rebels claimed that in several hours of fighting they brought down two Russian helicopter gunships and killed "some Soviet troops."

In Nangarhar Province, Moslem fighters destroyed Saragi bridge on the main Jalalabad highway leading to Torkham on the Pakistan border, Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan said. It said destruction of the bridge has impeded the movement of Soviet troops.

The Moslem Mojahedin guerrillas also burned down three government buildings being used as "Communist training centres" in Samarkhel town in the same province, the insurgents said. They said several school buildings are being used for military and other purposes by Soviet troops.

Antitank Rocket Launcher Produced

BK041644 Hong Kong AFP in English 1632 GMT 4 Apr 80 BK

[By Alain Faudeux]

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 3 Apr (AFP)--The first anti-tank rocket launchers produced in the Darra tribal land of Pakistan have appeared on the market while Afghan rebels say they have yet to receive any foreign military aid.

Visibly concerned about their lack of means to wage war on the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, rebel leaders said the only help they have been given so far has come from private individuals.

The Moslem Mojahedin fighters appear to be having difficulty in responding to the Soviet spring offensive, which is in a new phase in the Afghan provinces of Konarha and Nagarhar near the Pakistani border.

The insurgents are counting on captured materiel as well as arms produced in the Darra tribal zone in their bid to counter the Soviet moves to isolate their mountain strongholds near the frontier.

The artisans of Darra are skillful craftsmen but they are working with a steel that is too sensitive to overheating. Observers say their efforts to manufacture copies of the Soviet RPG-7 rocket launcher are proof that no other arms supplier is selling them.

A reporter was able to visit the studios where the "made in Darra" rocket launchers are assembled in a process that is no mean feat for the Pashtu tribesmen considering the technology available to them.

The reliability of the weapon has yet to be proven. The tube has a sale price of 50,000 rupies (about $4,000) while the ammunition is another 10,000 rupies. The figures are considered high by Darra standards, but dealers there say that the price will soon drop. In any case it is already competitive with Western or Soviet models that are going for 80,000 rupies on their market.

Recent statements by the Afghan rebels about their military operations have raised new questions about their armanents, since they have claimed the destruction in flight of several-24 armored helicopters. Neither the resources of Darra nor the rare anti-aircraft weapons captured by the rebels would be enough to explain such successes, if they are true.

Soviet Stronghold in Northeast

BK051717 Hong Kong AFP in English 1703 GMT 5 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 5 April (AFP)--Soviet and Afghan troops are installing themselves slowly but surely in northeast Afghanistan where the rebels can only cling to their positions and mount hit-and-run raids, rebel organisations have acknowledged.

The Soviet presence is particularly strong at Sorkhrod, west of Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar, and in the Kunar Valley where Soviet forces occupy the west bank of the Kunar River from the provincial capital of Shaga Sarai to the town of Asmar. Only scanty news is arriving in Peshawar from Badakhshan Province in northeast Afghanistan because of the mountainous terrain, but several reports indicate that the Soviet forces are trying to seal the frontier to cut the rebels from their supplies.

Rebel organisations said that fighting was continuing at Sorkhrod in Nangarhar Province, and in the Pesh Valley in Konarha. Rebels were licking their wounds in Kama District north of Jalalabad, which has been shelled for some days by Soviet forces.

Soviet assault troops have apparently given the Afghan Army the task of occupying territory in some cases, and in these areas the rebels said they quickly regain the upper hand.

The rebel group Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan has said that 40 Afghan soldiers deserted to the rebels in Narang District of the Kunar Valley, and other groups say they have regained ground in several areas of the Peshu Valley.

The Jamiat-e Eslami said its fighters attacked four positions near Shags Sarai on the night of April 1, adding that one of these was within 500 metres (550 yards) of the provincial governor's residence. After capturing these positions and berating the Afghan soldiers, the rebel fighters withdrew at dawn with the loss of three men but in possession of about 100 Soviet-made Kalashnikov automatic rifles, insurgent sources said.

The fighting has also spread to areas previously untouched by the conflict, and the Hezb-e Eslami has said that communists have been "eliminated" in Kahi District south of the Jalalabad-Peshawar axis. The local administrative offices have also been destroyed by fire, it said.

Foreign witnesses at Peshawar hospital on Thursday saw two Afghan women disfigured by an incendiary substance described by local doctors as a kind of napalm.

Helicopter Attack on Guerrillas

OW041858 Paris AFP in English 1835 GMT 4 Apr 80 OW

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 4 (AFP)--Government helicopters fired on a column of 60 Afghan guerrillas trying to enter Afghanistan from Pakistan Wednesday, according to reports received by Jamiat-e Eslamic organization. The rebel group said that at least 20 people were killed. The attack took place in the mountains north of Chitral, Pakistan. Reliable reports reaching here said that Soviet-Afghan troops using helicopters are trying to block the Pakistan-Afghanistan border to end rebel infiltration. The Pakistani Government has said repeatedly that it cannot prevent guerrillas from crossing the frontier.

Mojahedin Attack on Airbase

LD061040 Karachi Overseas Service in English 1005 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Latest reports from Afghanistan say Mojahedin have attacked the Soviet-controlled Bagram airbase in the Parvan Province. They are reported to have killed and wounded 55 troops, including 25 officers. A number of aircraft and helicopters have also been damaged.

The Mojahedin have made another attack on a police post in the Ghazni Province, killing 5 officers and 10 soldiers. They have also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

In the Zabol Province the Mojahedin have successfully repulsed a brigade attack to recapture the area of Arvazahgey and ambushed the retreating troops, inflicting heavy casualties on them. They have also destroyed many bridges in the area.

In order to control the northern parts of Helmand Province the Mojahedin are reported to have established their own administration in many districts.

Army Deserter Report

BK051241 Hong Kong AFP in English 1208 GMT 5 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Islamabad, 5 April (AFP)--Soviet women in Kabul have been forbidden to go shopping in the city's bazaars after several of them were abducted by Afghan citizens, the Pakistani newspaper JANG reported today.

An Afghan Army deserter said in an interview that the abductions were in retaliation for passes made at Afghan women by Russian officers in a Kabul club recently.

The mass circulation Urdu language paper said the high-ranking deserter, who did not wish to be identified, stated that 6,000 Soviet troops, including "senior advisers" have died in battles with the Muslim rebels and so far about 350 Soviet prisoners have been executed by Mojahedin.

He put the Afghan Army casualties in the 2-year old civil was at between 20,000 and 30,000.

The Soviets have massacred 600,000 Afghans, uprooted another 1 million, half of whom have fled the country and the remainder were on their way to Pakistan, he said.

JANG quoted another unidentified Muslim rebel commander fighting communist forces on the Kama front as saying that Soviet troops have either destroyed or taken over mosques and shrines in Afghanistan for military purposes.

Muslims are not allowed mass religious services and assembly of more than five people is banned in funeral processions, JANG said.

The traditional beating of drums at weddings is banned since it is considered as a "signal to charge." People watching the movements of Soviet troops are tortured and even children are not spared, he added.

"Soviet atrocities have not deterred the Muslim rebels who are determined to fight until the elimination of foreign aggression from their homeland," the deserter said.

KABUL VOWS STRUGGLE AGAINST REGIONAL, WORLD IMPERIALISM

LD042304 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 4 Apr 80 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] With the successful uprising of 27 December 1979, during which all the sinister and foul plans of international imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism and world and regional reaction, were destroyed, a free and (?peaceful) atmosphere has been created in our country and broad programs for the comfort and prosperity of the people of Afghanistan are at the planning and implementation stage.

But our people know that during this national and democratic revolution, world-devouring imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, regional and world reaction, the Chinese hegemonists and Zionism--which employ the most reactionary and blackest counterrevolutionary elements and are the sworn enemies of the people of Afghanistan--have embarked on a campaign of instigatory propaganda, aggression and shameless provocations. They distort the religious sacredness of our people--they themselves are the enemies of Islam--and once again seek to turn back the wheel of history. In order to turn back the wheel of history, the imperialists and reactionaries create bloody conspiracies and terrorism and through their loudspeakers and propaganda machine disseminate blatant lies concerning our country.

But we can say that the criminal imperialism and the black reaction with their shameful deeds will only leave black marks on themselves, and cannot accomplish any other thing. No power is capable of becoming an obstacle in the way of the progress, development and realization of peace in Afghanistan.

As Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, president of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, said in his recent new year speech: World imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, regional and world reaction, and Chinese hegemonists, who were defeated in their foul (?plans) as a result of the continuous struggle of the people of Afghanistan and the temporary presence of the limited Soviet military contingents, on the one hand has spread poisonous, false and hysterical lies against our revolution and on the other has used Pakistan as a base for aggressive and destructive activities against Afghanistan.

It must be clear to everyone that the party, government and the security forces of our country will not allow anybody, regardless of the pretext, to extend their bloody hands to the life, property and honor of our dear country, Afghanistan. Those days are gone when imperialism and its stooges could play with the destiny of our people by abusing the sacred religious feeling and faith of our people and when the CIA espionage organization and other destructive organizations of imperialism and reaction, could, through their sabotage, conspiracies and seditions, fish in troubled waters for their own interests. Our people have now gained enough experience from the imperialists' interference and their sinister aims, and they will crush the saboteurs, aggressors and conspirators who seek to plunder our people's freedom and to disrupt the social order.

BABRAK KARMAL SENDS CONGRATULATIONS TO HUNGARIAN LEADERS

JN041727 Kabul International Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 4 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Babrak Karmal, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, head of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, has sent a cable of congratulations to Comrade Janos Kadar, first secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party; Comrade Pal Losonczi, president of the Presidential Council; and Gyorgy Lazar, chairman of the Council of Ministers, on the occasion of the Hungarian people's liberation from fascism.

PARTY SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTIES INAUGURATED 5 APR

LD060355 Kabul in Dari to Europe 1730 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The faculties of the Institute of Social Sciences of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee were inaugurated this afternoon at a meeting attended by Feda Mohammad Dehneshin, member of the PDPA Central Committee, member of the Revolutionary Council and President of the PDPA Central Committee's department for implementation, propagation and learning. The meeting opened with the playing of the national anthem of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. Feda Mohammad Dehneshin, in the course of a detailed statement regarding the importance and all-round value of the faculties of the Institute of Social Sciences of the PDPA Central Committee in the revolutionary life of the cadres and the activists of the party and their deep effect on the learning of revolutionary ideas at this new stage of the Sawr Revolution, said: The PDPA, which is equipped with the progressive ideas of our time, actively continued [word indistinct] struggle against the Nadir monarchy and his bloodthirsty family and with the acceptance of considerable difficulties overthrew the power of monarchy and built the palace of the hopes of the masses of Afghanistan on its ruins. Also, the PDPA, in the light of the chain-breaking ideology of the working class, valiantly struggled against the deviation of left and right extremism and after the glorious Sawr Revolution valiantly struggled against the band of Amin, this recognized spy of U.S. imperialism, in line with revolutionary rules and saved the party and the revolution from early collapse.

At the beginning of the meeting, the president of the Institute of the Social Sciences of the PDPA Central Committee, in the course of explaining the institute's activities, presented some information regarding the [word indistinct]. The faculties inaugurated today are: The faculty of the [word indistinct] party activists and provinces. In this faculty 71 party cadres are studying. (?Students attend) this faculty every day from 0800 until 1600. The second faculty is for the cadres and the party organization activists of the city of Kabul. In this faculty a total of 110 party cadres participate twice a week for 9 months. The third faculty is for the activists of the youth and women's organizations of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. In this faculty 250 boys and girls will study in the afternoons for 3 months.

Other speakers at this meeting were: a member of the Executive Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan Democratic Youth Organization, on behalf of the organization; a student on behalf of the activists of the party organizations and in the end the assistant of the Institute of Social Sciences.

EDUCATION MINISTRY LAUNCHES LITERACY PROGRAM

GF051557 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1330 GMT 5 Apr 80 GF

[Text] Some 500,000 people in Kabul and [words indistinct] will be involved in a literacy program this year. Twenty thousand government teachers and volunteers will be teaching them. This was stated in an interview given by the head of the Education Ministry's program for combating illiteracy.

He said the fight against illiteracy is the sacred, economic and political responsibility of developing nations, and our country is also sharing this responsibility. Our government is paying more attention to this problem following the success of the April Revolution especially in its new phase.

In answer to a question, he said: Those people who have had no education and are between the ages of 5 and 50 are advised to participate in the program. Those individuals over 50 years of age are free to decide for themselves.

SRV'S PHAM VAN DONG BEGINS INDIAN VISIT 7 APR

BK070744 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 7 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong arrived in New Delhi a short while ago on a 6-day visit to this country. He was received, among others, by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the diplomatic representatives of the socialist countries.

Pham Van Dong is accompanied by a high-level delegation consisting of ministers for foreign affairs and foreign trade. His talks with Indian leaders will cover bilateral matters including expanding of cooperation in science and technology, regional developments and the international situation. During his talks with Prime Minister Gandhi, the situation in Indochina will also come up for discussion. The SRV prime minister will also meet President Sanjiva Reddy.

Arrival Speeches

BK070901 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 7 Apr 80 BK

[Excerpt] Vietnam Prime Minister Pham Van Dong arrived in New Delhi today on a 6-day visit to this country. He was given a ceremonial welcome and was received, among others, by Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi, External Affairs Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the diplomatic representatives of socialist countries.

Welcoming the Vietnam prime minister, Mrs Gandhi said that Vietnam is a name which evokes deep emotions in all those who care for freedom and respect the spirit of nationalism. She said the links between India and Vietnam are ancient. In this country they were renewed by our own ordeal of colonial subjection and the long drawn struggle against imperialism.

Mrs Gandhi said the Vietnam prime minister is visiting at a time when the pursuance of detente has been given up, tensions are growing and distrust has returned. Peace has had a setback. It is appropriate that they should exchange views on the implications of the new developments for nations which are struggling to keep aloof from rivalries and in what manner the nonalined can effectively meet the situation, Mrs Gandhi added.

Mr Pham Van Dong said the Vietnam Government and the people approve and support the foreign policy of peace, progress and nonalinement being pursued by India which is a bastion for peace in Asia and the world. He said his visit will further help develop good relations between the two nations for mutual benefit and for the benefit of peace and friendship all over the world.

EGYPT'S GHALI HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON 3 APR

BK031329 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 3 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Butrus Ghali [title as heard] has said there are no differences between India and his country on the question of self-determination for the Palestinian people. Differences, however, might be there on the procedure to achieve it. Addressing a news conference in New Delhi today, Dr Ghali pointed out India's decision to give full diplomatic status to the Palestine Liberation Organization would help accelerate the peace process in West Asia.

Answering questions about Afghanistan, he said while Egypt is not arranging any meeting of the nonalined nations to discuss the issue, it is in consultation with others about the possibility of such a meeting. Certain consensus is needed before it could be held. Like India, Egypt is also trying to devise measures to defuse tension in South Asia, he added. Dr Ghali said that the nonalined movement is passing through a special crisis and there is need to reinforce the movement.

In the afternoon Dr Ghali met Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi. He handed over to her a personal message from President as-Sadat. Dr Ghali invited Minister for External Affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao to visit Egypt. Mr Rao accepted the invitation.

Concludes Visit

BK041241 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 4 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Dr Ghali left New Delhi today at the end of his 3-day official visit to India.

TANZANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES 5 APR

BK060638 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Foreign Minister of Tanzania Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa arrived in New Delhi last night on a 2-day visit. During his stay in the capital he will have talks with the Indian leaders.

ASSAM UNREST CONTINUES; DECLARED 'DISTURBED' AREA

BK051323 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 5 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Assam has been declared a disturbed area with the exception of North Cachar with effect from tomorrow. The governor's notification to this effect was issued in Gauhati today and it will remain in operation for 2 months. It comes in the wake of prolonged agitation in the state on the issue of foreign nationals.

Chief Secretary of the State Paramasivan said the decision to declare the area as disturbed has been taken because of the prevailing tense situation and attempts made to disturb public peace. He said security arrangements have been made to remove the oil blockade. There is no question of sustaining further delay in resuming the supply of oil to other parts of the country, he added.

Army Units Moving In

BK051532 Hong Kong AFP in English 1509 GMT 5 Apr 80 BK

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Gauhati, Assam (India), 5 April (AFP)--An unspecified number of army units were dispatched to all strategic points in Assam today, as Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi's chief administrator here assumed extraordinary military powers by a government notification to deal with the agitators who have been demanding eviction and deportation of about 5 million migrants from Bangladesh and Nepal.

The government notification, which comes into effect from tomorrow, empowers the administrator to ask the army to take control of this sensitive northeastern province, shoot at sight, search houses and make arrests without assigning any reason.

Army convoys were seen by eyewitnesses moving towards Gauhati and Dispur, capital of Assam, where the students, spearheading the 7-month-old agitation are continuing their picketing of oil installations. Assam produces 4.6 million tonnes of crude oil annually.

The government notification issued here this noon came as a surprise as it would further complicate the situation. "We are not going to heed to government pressure--we will continue our agitation even if the army butchers us," Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, president of the All Assam Students Union, said. Mr Mahanta claimed that the picketing of the oil installations was continuing and said "we are not afraid of the army or the guns. We are fighting for a just cause. We will continue to fight," Mr Mahanta said and emphasized that they would remain peaceful "even if the army opens fire."

R.S. Paramasvivam, chief secretary administrator, refused to say when the crackdown on the agitators would start but hinted that if the picketing of the oil installations was not withdrawn by "tomorrow noon" he would ask the army to move in. "Now we have the absolute power to deal with the agitators, but if we take action it will be most unfortunate," Mr Paramasivam said and added, "I am hoping with hope that the students will understand the gravity of the situation and would help us to come to an acceptable solution."

Unofficial sources said that the authorities would order large-scale arrests of leaders tomorrow and if this creates tension and violent reaction, the army would be asked to move in. The Assam agitators had been demanding detection and deportation of those migrants who came here after 1951.

Mrs Gandhi, after coming back to power, held three rounds of discussions and urged the representatives to accept 1971 as the cutoff date to determine the nationality of the migrants. When this was rejected, Mrs Gandhi's government tried to strike a deal early this month by offering 1967 as the cutoff year, but this too was rejected.

In support of their demand the Assamese argue that if the present rate of migration from Bangladesh and Nepal continues for a few years more, they will become a minority in their own state.

Opposition Critical

BK051546 Hong Kong AFP in English 1517 GMT 5 Apr 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, April 5 (AFP)--In the first immediate reaction by an opposition leader, former Industry Minister George Fernandes today severely criticised the government of Prime Minister Mrs Indira Gandhi for officially declaring the northeastern state of Assam as a disturbed area today.

It was "the most senseless decision" taken by the government of Mrs Gandhi since it assumed office in January last, he commented here. Mr Fernandes said that it was now obvious that instead of working towards a political solution of the Assam problem, the government had "declared a war on the people of Assam."

Situation Under Control

BK061249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[Excerpt] Assam Governor L.P. Singh has said that the situation in the state is improving and the things are under control. Speaking to newsmen at the Calcutta airport today on his way to Delhi, the governor said efforts are being made to restore normalcy. The army has been kept ready to help the civil administration in case of any eventuality.

The order declaring the entire state, excepting the North Cachar District, as a disturbed area came into force today. Meanwhile, the leaders of the All Assam Students Union appealed to the governor to withdraw the order. Seven members of the Rajya Sabha had in a joint statement expressed concern at the declaration and demanded its immediate withdrawal.

'Liberation Army' Formed

BK061412 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[By Dilip Ganguly]

[Text] Gauhati, Assam (India), 6 April (AFP)--A liberation army, claiming support of all the seven northeastern Indian states, has been formed to start a secessionist movement and to "wage a war" against the Indian union. "We want an independent country of our own.... We have no similarity with the Indians," letters issued here by the "Seven United Liberation Army" (SULA) today said.

The letters said that the decision to raise the army was taken in Imphal, capital of Manipur state last week after "being convinced that the rulers in New Delhi have no sympathy for us and are all out to finish us." The seven states, which constitute the SULA are: Manipur, Nagaland, Mizoram, Assam, Tripura, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.

Official sources here neither denied nor confirmed the claims, but merely said that it was the work of some "fanatic, hard headed individuals without any mass following."

However, sources close to the government said that they were aware of the development, but rejected apprehension that the decision would create any immediate serious problem for the administration. The sources, who declined to be identified, said that the Indian counterintelligence in the northeastern states had sent a report 3 weeks back, indicating mass discontentment among the people. The reports had given details of actions the leaders were contemplating and had said that unless the government took actions, the whole northeastern region would join in the secessionist movement.

Regulations on Land Transfers

BK061712 Hong Kong AFP in English 1706 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 6 April (AFP)--The Indian cabinet today approved a proposal to issue an ordinance to restrict the transfer of land in trouble-torn Assam from foreigners.

The ordinance, called the Assam alienation of land (regulation) ordinance, would be issued by the Assam governor immediately, PRESS TRUST of INDIA (PTI) reported.

Under the ordinance, land cannot be transferred to a corporate body or a firm of which the majority directors, shareholders or partners as the case may be, are not citizens of India or if the firm is formed or regularised outside India.

The district collectors have [been] authorised under the ordinance to withold transfer of land if in their opinion the party to whom the land is to be transferred is unsuitable or if the transfer is prejudicial to public interest. Assam has at present several British-owned tea gardens and companies. Several foreign missionaries are also at work in the state.

Strikes Banned

BK070314 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 Apr 80 BK

[Text] The president last night issued an ordinance banning strikes in any essential service in Assam as a step to deal with the situation in the state. This closely follows an ordinance promulgated by the state governor yesterday which imposes restrictions on transfer of land in Assam. The two ordinances are a sequel to Saturday's notification declaring the entire state a disturbed area.

Under the ordinance signed by the president, anyone who instigates or supports a strike which has been prohibited is liable to be jailed for 1 year and fined up to 2,000 rupees. Offenses under the ordinance are proposed to be made cognizable, a provision for summary trails has also been incorporated.

According to the state chief secretary, the ordinance on transfer of land will go a long way in discouraging the influx of foreign nationals into Assam and in preventing acquisition of land by foreigners who are already in the state.

Official circles in Gauhati say the situation in the state was peaceful with no reports of any untoward incidents from anywhere yesterday. However, round-the-clock picketing in the Oil India pipeline headquarters at Narangi is continuing. Meanwhile, the All Assam Students Union and Gana Sangram Parishad [People's Struggle Council] have reiterated their decision to continue their agitation. However, they have said that they would keep open the doors for further talks to find a solution to the foreigners issue.

According to the UNITED NEWS of INDIA, the final decision on the future course of action will be taken at a joint meeting of the students union and the Gana Sangram Parishad in Gauhati today.

SOVIET REPORTS ON PAKISTANI AFGHAN INVOLVEMENT DENIED

BK061734 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Spokesman of the Foreign Office categorically rejected today the Soviet press reports alleging Pakistani involvement in the internal conflict in Afghanistan. The attention of the Foreign Office spokesman was drawn to recent reports carried by the Soviet press alleging that Pakistan Armed Forces were involved in supporting and organizing the activities of the Afghan insurgents. It had also been alleged that Pakistan Air Force planes were making reconnaissance flights over the Afghan territory in support of the Afghan resistance.

Describing these reports as totally false and baseless, the spokesman reiterated that Pakistan is not in any way involved in the internal conflict in Afghanistan, which has been aggravated by the Soviet military intervention. The spokesman also referred to another report by the Soviet press claiming that PIA [Pakistan International Airlines] planes were being used for the transportation of weapons to Afghan rebels. He categorically rejected the allegation as entirely unfounded and explained that PIA had extended its services only for the transportation of humanitarian assistance from abroad for the Afghan refugees. Pakistan does not allow itself to be used as a conduit for the flow of arms into Afghanistan.

VIOLENCE ERUPTS IN SIND ON BHUTTO DEATH ANNIVERSARY

BK041532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 4 Apr 80 BK

[Text] A press note issued by the Sind government in Karachi this evening says at 0915 today a crowd of about 1500 people surrounded a telephone exchange at Naudero town and started throwing stones at the security staff posted there, resulting in some injuries. The security staff warned the crowd and tried to prevent damage to government property but the people paid no heed to the warning. Despite being tear-gassed twice, they forcibly entered the building and set it on fire.

The press note says that the security staff was forced to open fire resutling in seven persons being injured, one of whom later died. The injured were immediately taken to a hospital where five were released after receiving first aid. The district magistrate and superintendent of police of Larkana immediately rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

AFP Report on Incidents

BK041621 Hong Kong AFP in English 1612 GMT 4 Apr 80 BK

[Excerpt] Islamabad, 4 Apr (AFP)--Two persons were killed and six wounded today in Sind when violence erupted during demonstrations organized in observance of the first anniversary of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's execution. Police opened fire on members of the pro-Bhutto Pakistani People's Party (PPP) who were attacking a central telephone office in the Bhutto family's native village of Larkana, according to sources at the scene.

Crowds had gathered in Larkana at Mr. Bhutto's tomb, sources said, among them leaders of the People's Party, which is outlawed by the government. Former PPP Secretary-General Tikka Khan and several former ministers and governors participated.

Some of the demonstrators, reproaching their leaders for "softness" at the time of Mr. Bhutto's imprisonment and death, began to push around the late leader's cousin, Mumtaz Bhutto, who was slightly wounded.

Mr. Bhutto's wife and 27-year-old daughter, who had received permission from a Karachi court to go to the family tomb, were taken to the cemetery by military authorities Thursday night. The two women, who have carried on Mr. Bhutto's political battle, have been under house arrest in Larkana for 6 months.

Report on Casualties

OW041954 Hong Kong AFP in English 1858 GMT 4 Apr 80 OW

[Excerpts] Karachi, April 4 (AFP)--One man was officially reported killed and seven others wounded when police opened fire on a hostile mob of former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto's supporters. Earlier unofficial reports from the scene had mentioned two dead and six injured in the firing incident.

BHUTTO'S WIFE, DAUGHTER PETITION AGAINST DETENTION

BK061304 Hong Kong AFP in English 1256 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[Text] Karachi, 6 Apr (AFP)--Miss Benazir Bhutto, the 28-year-old daughter of the executed former Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, today appeared before a division bench of the high court in connection with her constitutional petition against detention by the martial law authorities.

Miss Bhutto and her mother, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, have been kept under house detention since October 16 last for "endangering public peace and creating hatred against the military regime." Begum Nusrat Bhutto, widow of the former premier, could not appear in the court because of illness.

Former Law Minister Abdul Hafeez Pirzada, who is advocate for the two petitioners, pleaded before the court against their detention under martial law. The hearing was late adjourned till tomorrow.

YUGOSLAV DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD FOR TALKS

BK061110 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 6 Apr 80 BK

[Text] A five-member Yugoslav delegation arrived in Islamabad today to attend the second session of the joint [words indistinct] commission for economic, technical, scientific, cultural and educational cooperation between Pakistan and Yugoslavia. The session begins tomorrow.

The delegation is headed by a member of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia, Bogoljib Nedeljkovic. The talks will review the provisions of the protocol signed between the two countries in January last year. Under the protocol Yugoslavia provides Pakistani suppliers credit. A new protocol is expected to be signed between Pakistan and Yugoslavia on Wednesday [9 April]. The Yugoslav delegation during its 6-day stay in the country will also visit the heavy mechanical complex, the heavy forge and foundary and Tarbela Dam.

4 APRIL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Bani-Sadr on Hostages

JN041848 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 4 Apr 80 JN

[Text] At a symposium of foreign information media, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, has said that the universality of Islam will be brought about when a leader and president like 'Ali ibn Abi Talib, may God's blessings be upon him, is found who does not distinguish among Arab, Turkish, Kurdish or Persian peoples. He added: Such a universality is based on independence; that is, one people should not dominate another or fall under its domination. On this basis, we the Muslims consider our Muslim peoples as a nation. Our revolution is one that was staged by all the peoples.

On agriculture, Dr Bani-Sadr said that 60 percent of Iran's waters are wasted. If such waters were not wasted, we could have 12-14 million hectares of irrigated land in addition to the land watered by rainfall.

On the issue of the hostages, the president of the republic said: If we really want to fight the United States, war is not with slogans and words. He added: We can never make the United States kneel by keeping the hostages, even if we try them and put them in jail. He affirmed that victory in this respect is achieved when we can stand on our own feet economically and culturally.

The president of the republic continued: Some of the manifestations of the previous regime that continue to exist are concern to gain privileges; that is, each group is looking for more privileges. Dr Bani-Sadr advised the people and these groups to stop this behavior in order to build the country, raise the rate of production and provide work.

Referring to the cancellation of interests in the banking system, the president of the republic said: This does not mean that the individual can receive any amount he wants free of charge. The cancellation of interest was made in response to the needs of peasants and the needy for housing and to invest capital. He added: In accordance with the imam's statement on 1 Farvardin, we issued an order to the competent establishments, including banks, to implement all the articles of the statement. Banks have to invest their capital in industry and agriculture in the form of contributions.

On the provincial banks, the president of the republic said: I will go to Khuzestan. This project will be first applied in Khuzestan then in Kerman Province. Dr Bani-Sadr called on the banks to be active in the country.

Dr Bani-Sadr expressed his rejoicing at the nationalization of the banks in Iran and the reduction of oil production and the raising of the oil price. He said: The coming stage in the development of Iran's economy lies in investing the capital of banks in establishing production cooperatives.

On the solution of arable land, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran said: A law has been approved putting 10 billion Iranian riyals at the disposal of the agriculture bank. Committees have been formed for this purpose in the Agriculture Ministry.

Khamen'i Threatens Oil Disruption

WA041813 London REUTER in English 1734 GMT 4 Apr 80 WA

[By Paul Raylor]

[Excerpts] Tehran, April 4, REUTER--A member of the Revolutionary Council said today that Iran would disrupt the Persian Gulf region if the United States imposed new sanctions over the government's failure to take charge of the U.S. hostages here.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammed 'Ali Khamen'i told a mass prayer rally at Tehran University: "We can set the region alight with the cries of our oppression." He added that Western Europe and the United States could be deprived of oil from the Gulf region if the Americans try to starve Iran.

"The Iranian nation should resist American oppression; otherwise our revolution is half-hearted," Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i said.

The hardline speech, threatening to use Persian Gulf oil as a weapon against the United States and Western Europe, appeared to indicate that he had opposed any concession on the hostage issue at last night's vital meeting.

"Just as we closed the taps on the shah's system and America, some day all the oil taps can be turned off on the sophisticated technology of America and Europe," he said.

"Do they (the U.S.) think that if the Iranian nation starves, its brothers in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait and other oil-rich regions will sit quietly? The Iranian nation, with the cries of its oppression, can deprive them of Persian Gulf oil," he added.

5 APRIL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Tehran on Bani-Sadr LE MONDE Interview

LD051742 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1635 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to AFP, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president, in an interview with the LE MONDE correspondent in Tehran, said: The United States should be sincere in its attitude and adopt a clear position in dealing with Iran, otherwise the crisis in Iranian-U.S. relations could have drastic results for Iran and the world.

On the other hand, the president's press and cultural adviser, in a contact with the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, explained: Mr Bani-Sadr told LE MONDE that if fascist inclinations are strengthened in America and if (?fascism) takes over, it will be a tragedy for humanity.

AFP on Bani-Sadr LE MONDE Interview

NC051643 Paris AFP in English 1636 GMT 5 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Paris, April 5 (AFP)--The Iranian-American crisis could have "catastrophic consequences for Iran and the whole of humanity," Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said in an interview today in the influential newspaper LE MONDE.

The United States must "play an honest game, adopting clear and unambiguous positions" toward Iran, Mr. Bani-Sadr told LE MONDE's Tehran correspondent, Eric Rouleau.

Criticizing the "Islamic students" who have been holding an estimated 50 Americans hostage for the past five months in the occupied U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Mr Bani-Sadr said: "It is by breaking the chains of dependence on the United States and not by holding hostages that we can fight imperialism."

"The students are not unaware that, personally, I condemned their action from the very first day on humanitarian and political grounds," Mr Bani-Sadr said.

He added that the ruling Revolutionary Council on Thursday agreed to the transfer of the American hostages to its control, provided the move received the approval of religious leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni. "If the iman was to approve our decision, the students would implement it," President Bani-Sadr said. "Otherwise I would call on the people to decide."

"I know that I am backed by public opinion, which recognizes that the hostage affair is not essential, is even harmful, to the flowering of our revolution," he continued.

Mr. Bani-Sadr added that the Revolutionary Council had called on U.S. President Jimmy Carter to "clarify the terms" of his April 1 message in which Mr. Carter had told him that he "understood that the future Iranian Parliament was to take charge of resolving the fate of hostages."

"Understand is an ambiguous word in English," Mr. Bani-Sadr said. "It does not necessarily mean that the United States acknowledges the jurisdiction of our National Assembly."

"Mr. Carter also informed me that he was suspending the measures he had planned to take against Iran," Mr. Bani-Sadr went on. "There again, he did not explicitly state that he was abandoning all pressure tactics, sanctions and negative statements pending the verdict of the Iranian Parliament.

The Iranain president warned that "our actions must not revive the bellicose spirit Americans showed during the Vietnam war, and we must not favorize [as received] the interventionist, fascistic wing of the state apparatus which is pushing President Carter toward a hardline stance.

"Still today, Americans do not want to be drawn into a military conflict," Mr Bani-Sadr said. "If we end up making them change their minds, it would be a catastrophe for the Iranian people and all humanity. I personally do not care to shoulder this heavy responsibility."

Commission on Transfer Deadlock

WA052227 London REUTER in English 2208 GMT 5 Apr 80 WA

[Text] Tehran, April 5, REUTER--Five foreign intermediaries have formed a crisis commission to try to end the deadlock over the proposed transfer of the U.S. Embassy hostages to government control, sources close to the international team said tonight.

The sources told REUTER the commission comprised former Greek Catholic Archbishop Hilarion Capucci of Jerusalem, Swiss Ambassador Erik Lang, Papal Nuncio Annibale Bugnini and Paris-based lawyers Hector Villalon and Christian Bourguet.

They said the commission had a three-hour meeting today with Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh and would have contacts with government leaders and representatives of the militant students occupying the embassy during the next 48 hours.

Monsignor Capucci would visit the students at the embassy tomorrow morning to present a secret commission proposal which might persuade them to agree voluntarily to the transfer, the sources said.

The Greek Catholic prelate arrived here last night and visited the embassy today to arrange details for Easter services for the American hostages tomorrow afternoon.

He is to be assisted by three American clergymen who are here on a purely pastoral visit and not part of the new commission. The three are the Rev. Jack Bremer of Lawrence, Kansas; Nelson Thompson of Kansas City, Missouri and Darrel Rupiper of Omaha, Nebraska.

The sources said the commission had given itself a 48-hour deadline to try to resolve the transfer deadlock. Beyond this time, they expected the United States to begin instituting threatened sanctions against Iran, the sources said.

If the commission failed to persuade the students into a voluntary transfer, the panel would take its case directly to the ruling Revolutionary Council, the sources added.

U.S. Clergymen To Conduct Services

LD050540 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Three U.S. clergymen yesterday left the United States for Tehran to conduct Easter services for the 50 U.S. hostages in Tehran. Norman Forer, a professor of social welfare at the University of Kansas, said: The conducting of Easter services is the prime reason for this trip. Forer is the chairman of the Lawrence committee who had previously headed two delegations to Iran aimed at finding a solution for the release of the hostages. He added: The moment we arrive in Iran we shall discuss the possibilities for further negotiations, but this time there will not be any direct efforts toward obtaining the release of the hostages.

In this trip Forer will not accompany this three-man group. This trip has been organized by the U.S.-Iranian crisis resolution committee, headquartered in Lawrence, Kansas.

Forer said: There has been no previous plan aimed at having talks with the students deployed at the embassy or with government officials. Forer added: We are deeply concerned about the welfare of our U.S. fellow countrymen and believe that they will be released and this release will take place at a time when the U.S. Government understands that it has violated the U.S. nation's historic undertaking with regard to international justice.

Forer once again repeated this group's insistence in its demand from Congress pertaining to investigating U.S. activities in Iran during the past 25 years and asked the U.S. administration to officially recognize the Iranian nation's right to try the deposed shah.

Students' Invitation to Clergymen

LD050954 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The public relations office of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy has announced to our correspondent: Regarding the imam's emphasis on the holding of Easter ceremonies for the hostages, the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy have invited three American priests to this end today.

The public relations office of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy also announced: Two Iranian priests from Esfahan will also attend the ceremonies.

Capucci Mass for Hostages

LD051054 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman announced in an interview with PARS NEWS AGENCY that Cardinal Capucci, who has come to Iran at the invitation of the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said upon arrival in Tehran that the aim of this trip was to hold religious ceremonies for the feast of Easter for the American hostages.

This is the third trip by Cardinal Capucci to Iran since the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

U.S. Clergymen Arrive

LD051704 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Following the invitation of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, three U.S. priests arrived in Tehran this afternoon to organize Easter ceremonies for the hostages. The U.S. priests, in a short interview with our reporter at Mehrabad Airport, emphasized that their mission is to organize the religious ceremonies and that they have no political mission. According to our reporter, the U.S. priests will hold the ceremonies with Archbishop Capucci, who is in Iran following the invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and two Iranian priests.

Further on Khamine'i Statement

JN050708 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 5 Apr 80 JN

[Excerpts] Friday prayer was held at the University of Tehran yesterday with the participation of hundreds of thousands of the sons of the capital of the Islamic Revolution. Prayer was held under Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamine'i.

On the struggle with the superpowers, Khamine'i said: If these superpowers seek to cause us economic troubles, they can do so. We, however, can rob them of tranquillity and quiet.

Khamine'i stressed that Iran can deprive them of oil in the Middle East, such as from Kuwait, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Our brothers in this area will support us.

Rafsanjani Meeting With Khomeyni

JN050724 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 5 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Revolution Cpuncil member, met last night with Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In a statement at the end of the meeting, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said that Imam Khomeyni has expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the elections, asserting that the Consultative Assembly is one of the most prominent institutions in the country. He added: Imam Khomeyni reiterated that the Consultative Assembly is the one which will decide on the hostages' fate.

IRP Opposition to Hostage Transfer

NC050819 Paris AFP in English 0815 GMT 5 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, April 5 (AFP)--The influential Islamic Republic Party called here today for the 50 American Embassy hostages to remain in the hands of the Moslem students who have held them for five months.

"The problem of the hostages, despite what America might say, is not independent to that of the shah," the fundamentalist party stressed in its paper, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC.

"Contrary to what certain leaders think, the ruse used by (President Jimmy) Carter to shift the hostages problem from the direct control of the people and the Islamic students was part of an age-old American plan," the communique added.

Commenting on the "American undertakings" demanded by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr before the hostages were taken over by the Revolutionary Council, the clergy-dominated party said: "Undertakings from a colonialist power which has looted the wealth of our people for 50 years cannot be believed and nothing can guarantee they are kept."

The party, said to have scored well in the recent first round of voting in parliamentary elections, warned that any decision on the "nest of spies" in the U.S. Embassy should be the responsibility of the future Islamic Assembly.

Agreement to Hostage Transfer

NC051000 Paris AFP in English 0957 GMT 5 Apr 80 NC

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 5 (AFP)--Islamic militants are ready to hand over the American Embassy hostages if President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr wishes, so as not to weaken his position, a spokesman for the militants told the newspaper KEYHAN here today.

This was despite the fact that the students did not agree with the transfer, on the grounds that it was against the line taken by revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the spokesman said.

Revolution Council, Khomeyni Denial of Meeting

LD051853 Tehran International Service in English 1830 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to PANA, the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the students [word indistinct] the line of Imam Khomeyni have denied the news concerning the meeting of the Revolution Council and the Muslim students and Imam Khomeyni. REUTER news agency has reported from Tehran that members of the Revolution Council and the students adhering to the line of Imam Khomeyni [words indistinct] had a meeting with Imam Khomeyni this morning to discuss the hostages issue. The Foreign Ministry and the spokesman for the Muslim students (?described) the REUTERS [word indistinct] as unfounded.

Khalkhali on Hostage Trial

JN051814 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 80 JN

[Text] Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali has accused Iraq of supplying certain elements in Iran with weapons in order to divide Iran into statelets.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper AS-SAFIR, Ayatollah Khalkhali said: The Iraqi Ba'th regime is supplying the terrorist elements that oppose the Iranian Government with light and heavy weapons, as well as with financial aid in the two Provinces of Kordestan and Baluchestan. He said Iraq also gives aid to the Turkish and Arab minorities.

UPI cites Ayatollah Khalkhali as saying that the U.S. hostages will be put on trial after 2 months on the charge of espionage, if the former shah is not handed over to Iran. He added that after the trial, those hostage who have not been proven to have taken part in the U.S. plots against Iran will be returned, whereas the guilty among them will be punished.

Ayatollah Khalkhali said that the deposed shah's departure to Egypt will not influence the hostages issue. He also attacked As-Sadat for sheltering the former shah and said: As-Sadat is a degenerate person, following the steps of the devil. His eminence added that this diabolical course has dragged As-Sadat into consultations with Carter, Brzezinski and Rockefeller. Ayatollah Khalkhali accused the three men of sympathizing with a thief and murderer who took the life of 300,000 Iranians in prisons.

Ayatollah Khalkhali condemned As-Sadat for his approval of the opening of the Israeli Embassy in Cairo and the raising of the Israeli flag in Egypt's skies. He said As-Sadat has betrayed the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples, as well as all the Islamic peoples.

In reply to a question on the death sentences he passed on the guilty, Ayatollah Khalkhali said: We depend only on the Holy Koran and the sayings of our Prophet Muhammad, may God's blessings be upon him and his followers. He added: The persons I sentenced to death were corrupt and absolute criminals. Some of those convicted, he said, were able to run away to the United States and Europe, but we will chase them, in order to punish them for their crimes.

In another part of this interview, Ayatollah Khalkhali said: The three islands in the Persian Gulf are an integral part of Iranian territory and we will never abandon them.

Powell Statement on Sanctions Reported

LD052050 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1930 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to a UPI report, Jody Powell, the White House spokesman in Washington, said: Jimmy Carter, the U.S. President, is following the situation in Iran while he is in Camp David, and he still intends to apply political and economic sanctions against Iran if the government of Iran does not take control of the hostages. He added: We follow the situation in Iran carefully and our position is the same as we announced earlier.

Last Thursday Powell had said: America is hoping that the Iranian authorities will study the American position carefully and keep in mind the consequences of such a position in their final decision.

Qotbzadeh on Hostage Issue Discussion

LD052028 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1937 GMT 5 Apr 80 LD

[Text] The Revolution Council did not hold a general session tonight. At sessions of its different committees several bills were discussed and ratified. According to the PARS NEWS AGENCY, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, told reporters at the end of these sessions: At tomorrow night's session of the Revolution Council the issue of the hostages will be discussed and once the council has made a decision it will be announced.

Answering a question put to him about the Iranian Government's reaction to remarks made by a Palestinian official regarding Iran's three islands in the Persian Gulf, Qotbzadeh said: Mr Abu al-Hul, the representative of the PLO, said that the three islands belong to Arabs. We protested and demanded an explanation from the PLO to clarify whether these remarks were his own opinion or represented the PLO's stand on this issue. Naturally, if it is his own opinion, whatever it might be, it is worthless. If it is the opinion held by the PLO, then this organization should officially clarify its position on the subject and we, in turn, will clarify our stand.

Qotbzadeh emphasized that the three islands belong to us and we will not part with one inch of them.

As regards the time of his visits to Arab countries and other countries, Qotbzadeh said: My trip will start on Tuesday and it has been decided that I will visit Syria, Lebanon and Algeria. I might visit Libya, Sudan and Kuwait.

The minister of foreign affairs, answering a question about the remarks made by Hojjat ol-Eslam Khalkhali about Libya and Imam Musa-Sadr, said: Mr Khalkhali does not represent the Government of Iran; he expresses his own opinions. Mr Khalkhali does not and did not have a mission from the Government of Iran and his trip was a private one.

He added: His is not the view held by the Government of Iran. The government's view is that this issue should be investigated and a delegation appointed by the Revolution Council should go there and investigate the problem. Until the results of these investigations are known, the Government of Iran will not announce its views. Appointing the members of this delegation has been discussed and they will soon be appointed. What is obvious is that the view expressed by Mr Khalkhali is in no way the view held by the Government of Iran.

6 APRIL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

'Distortion' of Bani-Sadr Interview

LD061748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1645 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Today, AP, distorting the interview given by Bani-Sadr to LE MONDE, claimed that Bani-Sadr had described the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy as opportunists and that he said the students are taking advantage of the fact that they are holding the hostages and are using their handing over as an auction.

Following the receipt of this news and in order to clarify the truth and expose those agencies which distort and fabricate events to start a civil war in Iran, we acquired the text of the interview given by Mr Bani-Sadr to LE MONDE and we will now inform you of the part distorted by AP.

It is noteworthy that the press and cultural adviser of the president emphasized in a talk with our colleagues that what is meant by "hated opportunists" in this interview is all those leftist groups that try to accuse and label the Government of Iran to their own advantage.

Now we draw your attention to what our president said on the issue of the hostages: Opportunists in our country are using the issue of the hostages for a [word indistinct] race. For example, they say that the handing over of the hostages should not take place because the Americans have asked for it. On the other hand, the Americans are asking me to implement what I have said. Both sides are mistaken. Transferring the hostages to a hospital was proposed by Kurt Waldheim in his plan and this was accepted by the Revolution Council.

But this proposal was not implemented because of the hasty departure of the UN investigation commission. Therefore, we do not have any commitments toward anybody regarding this matter.

But as I have repeatedly said, the main issue is that Mr Carter needs the handing over of the hostages in order to save face in his country and keep his opponents in the election quiet. The Muslim students say Carter and Reagan are the same and it is not up to us to defend one as opposed to the other. They may be right.

But what is worrying me is something else. Our behavior should not invoke the warlike spirit in the people of America similar to that during Vietnam war. We should not strengthen the interfering fascist front in the governing system of America which tries to slide Carter into using force. The people of America are not willing to get involved in military adventurism. If our behavior results in a change in the attitude of the people of America, this would be a tragedy for the people of Iran and all humanity. I do not intend to accept such a heavy responsibility.

Bani-Sadr Reaction to MacBride Plan

LD061800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1641 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to AFP, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of Iran, has informed Sean MacBride, the winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, that his plan regarding the resolution of the crisis between Iran and America is acceptable to Iran.

The former Irish foreign minister yesterday announced in Dublin that the president of Iran had announced this acceptance in their latest contact.

MacBride, who did not provide any details of his plan to solve the crisis between Iran and America, said that in this plan the return of the deposed shah and his trial by an international court supervised by the UN Security Council, freeing Iran's assets in the United States and other problems which have followed the hostage taking in Tehran have been included. He agreed that these proposals have been submitted to Cyrus Vance, U.S. secretary of state.

MacBride refused to comment on the reaction of the U.S. secretary of state to this plan.

Decision on Hostage Transfer

OW061733 Paris AFP in English 1726 GMT 6 Apr 80 OW

[Text] Tehran, April 6 (AFP)--The Revolutionary Council today made a decision on transferring the 50 U.S. hostages held here but will not be able to publicly announce it until receiving approval from the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said following a council meeting. The ayatollah will be consulted on the issue tomorrow morning, he added.

Council Opposition to Transfer

NC061945 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 6 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, April 6, (AFP)--A majority of the Revolutionary Council is opposed to President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr's proposal to transfer custody of the U.S. hostages to Iranian authorities, a well-informed source said here today. But the council did not take any decision, preferring to submit the matter to Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, the source said. A delegation from the council will accompany Mr Bani-Sadr when he visits the ayatollah tomorrow morning.

It appeared, the source said, that Iran's "spiritual guide" would also look unfavorably upon the transfer of the hostages from the custody of the Islamic militants at the U.S. Embassy here.

Khomeyni To Decide on Hostage Transfer

LD062030 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1958 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, the Revolution Council spokesman announced at the end of tonight's session that 1 May will be a laborers' bank holiday [as heard].

Regarding the issue of the hostages he said: In tonight's session it was decided that the imam should be told of the matter concerning the transfer of the hostages.

He added: It should be known once and for all that there are a series of top-level issues in Iranian policy about which the imam's views definitely should be sought. These are a series of general issues about which the leadership should express its views [as heard--presumably meaning that Khomeyni should express his views on them]. He added that in any case, the final decision will be announced, according to the imam's decision and views.

The Revolution Council spokesman also said: Archbishop Capucci was to attend tonight's session of the Revolution Council in order to meet the Revolution Council members. However, it seems that his program at the espionage den took longer than expected.

He finally assured that for this reason these issues will be brought to the imam's attention tomorrow.

Rafsanjani on Hostages

JN060741 [Editorial Report JN] Tehran International Service in Arabic at 0710 GMT on 6 April 1980 quotes in its press review program the following press headline from the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI:

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani says in an exclusive interview: It is not in our interest for the hostages to be in the hands of the government, and no decision will be taken concerning them without Khomeyni's orders."

Further on Rafsanjani Remarks

NC060844 Paris AFP in English 0830 GMT 6 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, April 6 (AFP)--The ruling Revolutionary Council will make no decision on the fate of the American Embassy hostages without the advice of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, a council member said today. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani made the pledge in an interview with the newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC (after) talks with the Iranian leader yesterday.

The council was expected to announce tonight whether custody of the estimated 50 Americans should be transferred from the Iranian militants who have held them hostage since November 4.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said Ayatollah Khomeyni placed great confidence in the basic role of the future Islamic Parliament, "which alone" should must [as received] decide on the fate of the hostages after being elected later this year.

He added: "Under law, if we are given assurances on the hostages' state of health, it is not justified that the Revolutionary Council take custody of them and the problem does not even arise."

Montazeri on Hostages

LD062356 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2011 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Excerpts] His Excellency Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, who has come to Tehran discuss some points with the Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in a private interview with the PARS NEWS AGENCY at the temporary residence of the leader of the revolution, expressed his own views about the revolution courts, hostages and the position of Anwar as-Sadat vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ayatollah Montazeri, in replying to a question as to whether the Revolution Courts should remain or not, said: The imam said that as long as the Ministry of Justice is not reorganized and has not become what we desire it to be, the revolution courts must exist.

Ayatollah Montazeri added: We were faced with the problem of an absence of coordination in some parts of the country in a way that some lack of coordination has been observed between the revolution courts, Shari'a judges, revolution public prosecutors, offices of public prosecutors and the Revolution Guards' Corps. We expect the Revolution Guards' Corps, which is one of the executive foundations of the revolution, to obey the verdicts of the Shari'a judges because they are the executive power.

In reply to the PARS NEWS AGENCY reporter's questions about U.S. hostages and their possible handover to the government, Ayatollah Montazeri said: Of course, there must be coordination [hamahangi] between the Revolution Council and the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, so that there should be no differences.

The question of how to reach coordination depends on the mutual consent of these two; it is expected that they will sit together and have talks and, God willing, they will reach full agreement, and possibly [Montazeri does not finish his sentence]. As his excellency the imam has said: In fact, the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy have carried out the demand of the nation, because all blows against the nation have been inflicted by Mohammad Reza and the nation considers Mohammad to be one of the U.S. puppets. This means that America has in fact inflicted a blow against the nation of Iran. In fact, the revolutionary students have carried out the demand of the nation and in fact the hostages are the hostages of the nation of Iran. Thus, the representatives of the nation of Iran [word indistinct] must decide their fate in the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Capucci Meets With Militants

WA061227 London REUTER in English 1218 GMT 6 Apr 80 WA

[Text] Tehran, Iran, April 6, REUTER--A former archbishop trying to arrange the handover of the U.S. hostages in Tehran to government control spent more than an hour today talking to their student captors at the occupied U.S. Embassy.

Hilarion Capucci, former Greek Catholic archbishop of Jerusalem, took with him a secret proposal that he hoped would persuade the students to transfer the 50 hostages, held now for five months, to the government, informed sources said.

The Syrian-born prelate is one of five foreign mediators who have set up an informal commission to try to break the deadlock over the transfer before President Carter goes ahead with fresh sanctions against Iran, the sources said.

The students gave no details of today's meeting and Monsignor Capucci left the embassy compound by car without stopping to talk to reporters.

A Foreign Ministry official today denied any knowledge of the commission or its proposals.

The sources said the commission would try to press its case on the ruling Revolutionary Council, which meets this afternoon.

Three American ministers went into the embassy compound today to prepare for Easter services for the hostages. Monsignor Capucci was due to join them.

The students scheduled a press conference for later today but did not say what topics it would cover.

Monsignor Capucci said he hoped to see all the hostages during the Easter services.

The official PARS NEWS AGENCY later quoted sources at the Foreign Ministry as saying there had been no decision yet on whether the commission would be formally accepted by the Iranian Government.

Clergymen See Hostages

UA062044 London REUTER in English 2003 GMT 6 Apr 80 WA

[Text] Tehran, April 6, REUTER--The three American clergymen who conducted Easter services for the American hostages in the U.S. Embassy said tonight they thought they had seen all the captives and all were in good mental and physical condition.

Rev. Jack Bremer of Lawrence, Kansas, and Rev. Nelson Thompson of Kansas City, Missouri, both Methodists, and Father Darrell Rupiper, a Roman Catholic priest from Omaha, Nebraska described their visit to a press conference inside the embassy as moving and emotionally draining.

They said they believed they saw all the hostages during the five and a half hours they spent in the compound, although they were not able to say how many there were.

They said they saw the captives in groups of twos, threes and fours and led a series of services in which all but a few of them took part.

The three American clergymen were joined for part of the afternoon services by Papal Nuncio Annibale Bugnini and Archbishop Hilarion Capucci, the former Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Jerusalem.

"It has been said again and again and again that the hostages are being well-treated," Father Rupiper said. "Today we heard the same thing. They have exercise bicycles, ping pong; watch tv; see movies, video cassettes; the food is fine. They say that the students are treating them correctly."

Rev. Bremer said: "I do confirm from my own first-hand impression they were tired of being here and they all wanted to go home, (they said) that their spirits were at this time generally good."

Archbishop Capucci added: "As they (the hostages) said themselves, their conditions were good. And the best reason for their health was their faces, their smiles, and their healthy figure."

Asked whether any of the hostages they saw was mentally or physically in a poor condition, both Rev. Thompson and Father Rupiper answered: "No."

Rev. Bremer added: "I saw no one who I would honestly judge had any nervous or psychological condition."

Clergymen on Hostages' Conditions

OW062317 Paris AFP in English 2312 GMT 6 Apr 80 OW

[Text] Tehran, April 7 (AFP)--The American hostages at the United States Embassy here were in perfectly good health, and some were even gaining weight, the four clergymen who celebrated Easter with them said here Sunday night.

Three American churchmen--Protestants Jack Bremer and Nelson Thompson and Roman Catholic Priest Darrell Rupiper--joined Hilarion Capucci, former Greek Catholic archbishop of Jerusalem, in telling reporters at a news conference that the hostages were in good shape psychologically and physically. Father Rupiper said he was convinced the hostages--in their 23rd week of captivity--were in better shape than the average American. But he and the other churchmen said the Iranian militants were depriving the hostages of news concerning them, citing emotional problems that might be created.

The Rev. Thompson said most of the hostages, while more than ready to return home, recognized that the Iranian people's demands were well founded. He and the other American clergymen denounced U.S. Government support for the regime of the ex-shah and said the hostage-taking was perfectly understandable, if not justifiable.

The clergymen said they had spent five hours with the hostages, but still were unable to say exactly how many they had met. The U.S. State Department believes there are 50 hostages at the embassy.

The Rev. Rupiper, showing photographs of demonstrators killed in rioting against the shah in 1978, accused Washington of having systematically covered up human rights violations, which he said were the rule under the regime of Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

Archbishop Capucci backed the position taken by Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, saying the question of the hostages' release should be resolved by the future Iranian Parliament. The ayatollah is to decide today whether the hostages will be transferred to Revolutionary Council custody, considered a step toward their release.

The press conference was concluded when an Islamic militant gave the American clergymen 57 letters from the hostages to their families.

Tehran Radio Report

LD061816 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1642 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Easter celebrations for the hostages held in the U.S. den of espionage in Tehran were held this afternoon in the presence of three U.S. priests, Archbishop Capucci and two Iranian priests. According to our reporter, at these celebrations the hostages met the priests in separate groups and the priests performed Easter prayers for them.

According to the same report, Archbishop Capucci handed letters to them from their families.

According to our reporter, who talked to the priests, the priests described the condition of the hostages as good and said they were all enjoying good health. The priests added that the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy are treating the hostages extremely well and that they are being provided with all means of comfort.

During the Easter celebrations held for the U.S. hostages, the pope's representative in Iran took part and all the hostages were happy.

Our reporter adds that at the end of the ceremony, which started at 1500 hours and which continued until 1900, the three American priests, the pope's representative in Iran, and Archbishop Capucci took part in a media interview. At this interview, Archbishop Capucci said: My food in the prison of the Israeli executioners was worse than what animals would eat. The food served to the hostages here is better than the meals I have in Rome.

U.S. Marine Questioned

NC061120 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 6 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, April 6 (AFP)--Michael Moeller, one of the 50 American Embassy hostages, was today questioned at the embassy by an examining magistrate in connection with an alleged sexual offense against an Iranian girl, the newspaper KEYHAN reported.

The student, whom Mr Moeller is accused of making pregnant, was said to have been strangled to death by her brother last March 28 after she confessed to him that she was expecting an illegitimate child by an American.

7 APRIL DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Bani-Sadr Meets Khomeyni

LD070950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Text] About noon today, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, together with three members of the Revolution Council--Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, Sadeq Qotbzadeh and Mo'infar--were received by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic, in order to discuss and exchange opinions on the issue of the hostages, the attacks and threats by Iraq, and other affairs of the country. At this session Ayatollah Eshraqi and Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni were also present. Our reporters have prepared reports of the issues discussed at this session which will be brought to your attention as soon as they are ready.

Khomeyni Rejects Transfer

LD071032 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1006 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Text] A statement issued by the Imam Khomeyni's office in connection with the issue of hostages has just been released. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Noble nation of Iran: As we have previously said, the decisive stance on the hostages by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, has not changed and the hostages and the embassy will remain as previously in the hands of the Muslim and struggling students until the formation of the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the decision on their fate by the esteemed representatives of the nation. We have repeatedly explained that the health of the hostages and the place where they are held is good in every way. In order to prove this, if there are people who want to be informed of their health and welfare, they may do so supervised by responsible officials.

[Signed] The Imam Khomeyni's office, Qom.

[Dated] 7 April 1980.

Further Report

NC070925 Paris AFP in English 0921 GMT 7 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, April 7 (AFP)--The American hostages in the U.S. Embassy in Tehran are to remain in the hands of the Islamic militants there until Iran's Parliament meets, the office of Iran's Islamic leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni announced here today.

"The hostages will remain in the hands of the representatives of the Iranian nation and the students until the Parliament meets to decide their fate," Ayatollah Khomeyni's office announced from the holy city of Qom.

President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr refused to make any comment on the hostages question when he left a 40-minute meeting between Revolutionary Council members and Ayatollah Khomeyni today when the hostages question was believed to have been discussed.

Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh indicated the council would meet again later today.

Mr Bani-Sadr and Mr Qotbzadeh were accompanied by Petroleum Minister 'Ali Akbar Moinfar, and Ayatollah Mehdi 'Ali Mahdavi Kani, representing the Khomeyni committees, to the meeting in the ayatollah's house in Tehran. Ayatollah Khomeyni's son Ahmad and Ayatollah Eshraqi were also present.

"The Islamic students still have permission to hold the hostages," a representative of the militants said today after a meeting with Ayatollah Khomeyni.

He did not say whether he joined the meeting between the Revolutionary Council members and the ayatollah or whether he saw him alone. He did not indicate if the council was taking a different line from the ayatollah.

In the communique from Qom, Ayatollah Khomeyni's office said the hostages, who have been held for more than five months, were in good health, adding that they could be visited to verify their condition.

Khomeyni Authorizes Council Decision

PA071249 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1023 GMT 7 Apr 80 PA

[Text] Tehran, 7 Apr (LATIN-REUTER)--Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni today authorized the ruling Revolutionary Council of Iran to adopt the decision which it considers most convenient in dealing with the problem of transferring the hostages who are inside the U.S. Embassy here. This is what the spiritual leader of the captors, the radical Muslim students, has told this news agency.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammed Mosavi Kho'ini said during a news conference held at the home of the revolutionary leader that "the imam (Khomeyni) feels that the hostages should remain with the students." He explained, however, that "if the Revolutionary Council wants to adopt another decision, the imam will allow it to do so."

The priest made the announcement shortly after holding a 1-hour meeting with Khomeyni and four members of the council who visited him to obtain a definite pronouncement from the revolutionary leader on the transfer problem. The council is planning to hold another meeting this afternoon. Kho'ini said that any new decision from the Revolutionary Council will have to be submitted to Khomeyni for his consideration.

Meanwhile, Khomeyni's son-in-law and close coworker, Hojjat ol-Eslam Shahaboddin Eshraqi, told this news agency that "the hostages will remain with the students."

Bani-Sadr, Qotbzadeh Decline Comment

LD071111 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1002 GMT 7 Apr 80 LD

[Text] As we informed you at the beginning of the bulletin, at noon today Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president of our country, together with a number of members of the Revolution Council, met with the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran about the issue of the hostages and other current affairs of the country. Our colleage talked with the president and the minister of foreign affairs about the issues discussed at this session, the tape of which is ready to be broadcast and we draw your attention to it [begin recording]

[Question] Mr President, will you please tell us what issues were discussed at the meeting with the imam and a number of Revolution Council members, where an important decision regarding the fate of the hostages was to be taken?

[Answer] Many things were talked about, but what decisions were taken will be announced later. We talked about the threats posed by Iraq, about the fact that people should remove the remnants of foreign domination by hard work [words indistinct] victories will be achieved by economic jihad trying to make the army and our culture independent--these things were all discussed. The internal security of the country, which should be maintained by the people themselves--they should protect themselves and should not allow the anarchy-seeking groups to endanger their security. This was talked about.

[Question] Mr President, about the issue of hostages: was it decided when their fate will be announced?

[Answer] This was discussed by the Revolution Council, and the minister of foreign affairs will in time announce the result.

[Question] About the issue of Iraq and the problems it has created: would you tell us if it was discussed and what decisions were taken by the Government of Iran?

[Answer] Our view is that the Government of Iraq is not doing these independently--the explosions it caused. These are all ploys by the superpowers to prevent the creation of a base opposed to the international system created by the superpowers. They are exerting these pressures from every side--internally from Iraq, from Afghanistan, from every side. Therefore, just as we resisted the pressure before when the shah's regime itself was here, and it was all pressure, we will cope now and the people of the world will see that the nation of Iraq will topple this puppet regime. [end recording]

Our reporter then talked to Sadeq Qotbzadeh, the minister of foreign affairs of our country, which you will now hear: [begin recording]

[Qotbzadeh] A number of issues were discussed, and there were one or two opinions which were considered. It was decided that those opinions should be reviewed again with the imam's own view at about 1400 or 1500. After this review these views will be announced.

[Question] What were those views, Mr Qotbzadeh?

[Answer] Well, since it has not been quite clarified yet, until these views have been given due consideration, the imam has ordered, that is to say, itwas decided at that session that they were not to be announced until the final decision is made about them. [end recording]

Qotbzadeh Criticizes Hardliners

OW070008 Hong Kong AFP in English 0002 GMT 7 Apr 80 OW

[Excerpt] Tehran, April 7 (AFP)--Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh criticized Revolutionary Council hard-liners in an interview published Sunday, saying the United States had, in fact, provided assurances requested by Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. Mr Bani-Sadr had called for assurances from the U.S. Government as a prerequisite to the transfer of the 50 American hostages from the hands of Islamic militants into Revolutionary Council custody. U.S. assurances followed--in public and private statements--but Revolutionary Council radicals were not satisfied.

But in Sunday's interview in the newspaper ISLAMIC REPUBLIC, Mr. Qotbzadeh--who, like President Bani-Sadr, has sought to normalize Iran's relations with the world--attacked the hard-line faction, saying: "The United States has furnished, through diplomatic channels, the necessary assurances.

"It is, moreover, in our interest," he added, "that the responsibility of the hostages return to the Revolutionary Council."

'Profound Pessimism' in Tehran

TA071538 London BBC World Service in English at 1500 GMT 7 Apr 80 TA

[From "Newsreel"]

[Text] The hostages in the American Embassy in Tehran are now in their sixth month of captivity at the hands of Iranian students and it appears that there will be no immediate change in their status. The ruling Revolutionary Council, which yesterday discussed the future of the hostages, today had a meeting with the Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeyni. Afterward the ayatollah's office said nothing in the situation had changed. This now raises the possibility of further retaliatory sanctions by the United States against Iran, a prospect which is causing some concern in Tehran, as Alex Brody reports.

[Begin Brody recording] Officially the ruling Revolutionary Council still has to announce its decision. But now that Ayatollah Khomeyni has spoken, that decision will probably be a mere formality. The hostages will remain with the students, the deal with America will fall through and all that remains is to sit back and wait for America to do its worst. There is an air of profound pessimism in Tehran now. In diplomatic circles, people seem resigned to American sanctions and a worsening of an already tense situation. America's allies wonder whether their governments will join action against Iran.

The last ditch effort of the five men who were trying to bring about reconciliation is still going on, but with resignation. One of them told me "What is the point. I think it's now too late. There's nothing we can do." Nevertheless, the five men--the former archbishop of Jerusalem, the papal nuncio, the Swiss ambassador and two Paris-based lawyers--were at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon, and they were expected to visit the three American diplomats who have been there since the embassy was seized. They are also due to meet President Bani-Sadr tonight.

The president's position must have been even further weakened by his failure to make the deal. He has been undermined again. The hardliners have won, and Dr Bani-Sadr advances one more step along the road to becoming a ceremonial president with little real authority. As for Iran, it surely needs to revive its economy. It can ill afford to be weakened by sanctions. [end recording]

RELATIONS WITH IRAQ REPORTED, DISCUSSED

Qotbzadeh Statement

LD062104 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1941 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh, our country's minister of foreign affairs, replied to the claims of the Iraqi Government in a radio and television interview tonight: [begin recording]

[Correspondent] As you know, the Iraqi Government has asked for the immediate withdrawal of Iranian forces from the three islands at the mouth of the Strait of Hormuz. I would like you to express the position of the Iranian Government in connection with the claims of the Ba'thist government of Iraq.

[Qotbzadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The issue of these islands is not the only issue. It is a lot deeper and bigger. As you know, we are faced with imperialist and superpowers plots in the region. Our sacred Islamic revolution is seriously threatened by these superpowers, U.S. imperialism and international Zionism in particular.

I have already told this to some Arab diplomats, and I now reaffirm that on the basis of our information, after the difference of opinion that the Iraqi Government had during the era of the deposed shah with Iran, Israel was the main mediator in resolving the difference.

Ever since, the criminal Government of Iraq has been entirely in the hands of international Zionism and has acted against the interests of the Arabs and the Muslims and for the Zionists. Of course, the result of it was that the deposed shah should [word indistinct] with Saddam Husayn in Algiers. The agreement had already been made and that was [word indistinct] the occupied Palestine, which is at present Israel.

Ever since, the criminal Government of Iraq has been increasingly in the hands of U.S. imperialism and international Zionism. Its whole economy is practically in the hands of these two forces. It would not drink a glass of water without their permission. It represents the highest point in treason to the combined interests of the Arabs in the region vis-a-vis the usurper Israel, and is the agent for stabbing the Syrian Government and other governments in the back. The Iraqi nation fully realizes this.

Especially after the victory of the glorious Iranian Revolution, the Islamic Revolution of Iran received a strange reaction in Iraq; it extended the level of resistance of the people against the Iraqi Government day by day so that it has placed the usurper and bloodthirsty government in a tight spot.

They started to raise a number of points and stake a claim to the safeguard of the interests of the Arabs in the region. They who have sold the interests of the Arabs to the usurper Israel and U.S. imperialism for years are not the guardians of the interests of the Arabs. Therefore, you should seek the meaning there.

We have already clarified this and I now reaffirm that we will not give up 1 inch of our sacred country which belongs to our Islamic republic today and upon which stands the flag of Islam and Iran.

[Question] Mr Qotbzadeh, the Foreign Ministry has put a question to the PLO in view of the remarks made by a member of the PLO Central Council at the national highway seminar. You asked the PLO whether those remarks were the opinion of the PLO, or of that particular member in Iraq only. Have you received any replies from them or not?

[Answer] Unfortunately, we have not yet had a reply. But the Palestinian ambassador is going to see me tomorrow and I expect that any explanation will be clear and very precise because, according to the famous phrase, although we are brothers we must not mix our personal accounts. And any country or organization which decides to doubt or have the slightest thoughts about the fact of our national sovereignty regarding these three islands, or doubts the fact that the Gulf is a Persian Gulf cannot be accepted by us. I have made this point clear to everybody and it will always be the same.

[Question] Last reports from Iraq indicate that thousands of Iraqi people have been expelled by the Iraqi Ba'thist government only because they are Shi'a Muslims. Some of these people have arrived across the border, and the second secretary of the Islamic republic of Iran in Iraq has also been given 24 hours grace to leave that country. Do you think that the relationship between Iran and Iraq will be discussed in the Revolution Council meetings?

[Answer] The Revolution Council received these reports and they were partly discussed, but relations between Iran and Iraq have not approximately [word indistinct]. We asked for the return of our ambassador some time ago and I told the staff of the Iranian Embassy in Iraq to leave that country today. I knew that they were planning to commit these crimes and it shows the way in which the Iraqi Government behaves, but there are many instances of such behavior by them.

Most of our compatriots who have been expelled from Iraq were born in Iraq but the criminal government of Iraq considers them to be Iranians even if they were Iranians three generations. ago. However, they are welcome in Iran; they are dear to us and we respect them and it was decided to provide them with all means of comfort. But the criminal Government of Iraq must know that the hands of revenge of the nation of Iran will join hands with the nation of Iraq and will eventually overthrow this satanic regime of Iraq, too.

[Question] Mr Qotbzdeh, would you please tell us what sort of relationship could exist between the reinforcement of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, the arrival of the deposed shah in Egypt and the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, which is plotting against the Government of Iran?

[Answer] As I mentioned, the Ba'thist Government of Iraq is an appendix of imperialism to this region. Therefore, it is natural that some of the Zionist and [word indistinct] provocations against us in this region should be implemented through Iraq. Some of the rest of those criminal elements of the former regime have gone there and are busy.

About the deposed shah going to Egypt: This is a matter related to [word indistinct] and As-Sadat, but this particular problem is one of pressure that imperialists are trying to exert upon our country. Fortunately, the struggle and resistance are heightening.

It is heightening in Iraq and there is hope that, God willing, that country will proceed toward becoming one of the countries liberated from the claws of imperialism. And I give this good news to the zealous Muslim people of Iraq: the entire Muslim nation of Iran is beside them and they will fight until the people of Iraq gain their freedom.

[Question] Due to the shortage of time, I will ask my last question. Mr Qotbzadeh, you have returned from the Revolution Council session. Would you please tell us: what were the decisions made by the Revolution Council tonight, especially in connection with the transfer of the hostages?

[Answer] It was decided that the committee should take steps tomorrow morning and announce them tomorrow afternoon [words indistinct]. It was a very lengthy session, but the decision regarding the hostages will, God willing, be announced tomorrow afternoon. [end recording]

Armed Kurdish Tribes Purged

LD031758 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1651 GMT 3 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to a PARS NEWS AGENCY report, the organization of the Muslim Kurdish Peshmerga stationed in Kermanshah has announced: On 31 March the agents of the Ba'th regime of Iraq took 14 members of the Tamarkhan tribe hostage and took them to an unknown place.

The same report indicates that the cleansing of the Sharvineh region of elements of the armed Kurdish tribes has been accomplished by the organization of the Muslim Kurdish Peshmerga of Javanrud branch. So far, in that region the villages of Foolady, Kanimadaran, Gassur, 'Aliabad, Sasel, Bakreman and some other villages have been cleansed of the alien, mercenary elements.

The armed individuals living in Zebran region have announced their readiness to hand in their weapons.

In Sargineh and Qeshlaq, a large number of people have handed in their weapons and have been given assurances of safe conduct.

Eight armed members of the Iraqi Ba'th [party] have also given themselves up to the Islamic Revolution Guards corps in Qeshlaq with 16 Kalashnikov rifles, and at the moment they are in the custody of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Iraqi Role in Kuwait

JN041325 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 4 Apr 80 JN

[From "Today's Iraq Searches for a Husayn" program]

[Excerpts] O people of Iraq, whether inside or out; O mujahidin people of the Gulf: Following the success of the Islamic revolution in Iran, the Islamic peoples, particularly the Gulf people, witnessed [words indistinct] in the form of demonstrations and uprisings reminded the rulers of the issue or Gulf security. Accordingly, visits were exchanged, contacts held and security agreements reached between the Gulf rulers.

[Words indistinct] The ruling Ba'th party in Iraq has a long history and excellent experience in opposing the Islamic movements, experience which are the result of 12 years of experiments.

Thus, we see that the greatest role played by the Ba'th Party relates to security issues. Among the issues of security coordination was the agreement reached between the Ba'th Party government revolutionary move, whose signs began to appear in Kuwait.

The Iraqi intelligence [word indistinct] its [word indistinct] viciously in order to more than double the number of intelligence elements under the guise of security coordination, thus spreading its octopus-like limbs to all Kuwaiti institutions. Gradually, and despite its small size, the Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait became a center for coordinating security efforts in order to pursue the elements opposing the Ba'th regime.

The Iraqi Embassy in Kuwait is really a government inside the state of Kuwait, with all the privileges of a government.

Indeed, the Iraqi intelligence members behave as if they are on Iraqi soil, for they detain whoever they want in the way they want, without anyone asking why, not to mention anyone demanding the release of the detained person.

The Iraqi intelligence employs the following methods in order to complete the stages of its plot and instill fear and terror in the people's minds.

First, the Iraqi intelligence in Kuwait employs the enticement method, which is in accordance with the general plan followed by the Ba'th Party against opposition and newspapers. This method entails making the opposition and newspapers taste the delicious Iraqi oil, as is the case in London and Paris, where the papers and their reporters are bought. In Kuwait, the Iraqi intelligence does not buy newspapers. Instead, they buy reporters.

The second method is that of threats, since there are a number of opposition members who would not respond to the temptations of the Iraqi intelligence as much as they would [word indistinct] to their principles. Since the first method would prove futile, another method is used. Needless to say, it is known that the Iraqi intelligence is notorious for its cruelty and torture against those who protest or object.

The third method is that of extermination, which is [word indistinct] since there are no such words as values and conscience in the Ba'th dictionary, for the Ba'thists kill and exterminate in their operation rooms without finding this [word indistinct].

Such practices are not merely confined to Iraq, but are also carried out outside Iraq. Indeed, the dirty practices of the Iraqi intelligence in exterminating the loyal people through assassinating or kidnaping them have left their traces everywhere.

Indeed, there was 'Izz ad-Din Qalaq in Paris, Sa'id Hammami in London and 'Ali Yasin in Kuwait, and all of them belonging to the PLO.

The Iraqi people who believe in God thus see the spectre of death in every car going in their direction. One Iraqi, who was collecting contributions for the families of the martyrs executed in the Ba'th prisons, was forced out of his car and shipped to Iraq in a diplomatic briefcase [as heard], thus following the friends whose families he was collecting contributions for.

These are some observations on the dirty role played by the Iraqi intelligence in Kuwait, which only serve to give a picture of what actually takes place in other Islamic states through the Iraqi embassies, which always remind one of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran.

Iraq Accused of Terrorist Aid

NC041150 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 4 Apr 80 NC

[Text] Beirut, April 4 (AFP)--A member of Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council today accused Iraq of providing terrorists with weapons and cash to help sabotage Iranian unity.

Ayatollah Sadeq Khalkhali, now visiting Syria, made the claim in an interview with the Lebanese daily AS-SAFIR. "Because of the crimes committed against Iran by the leaders of the Iraqi Ba'th Party, who are helping the terrorists, relations between the two countries are not cordial," the ayatollah said.

He charged Iraqi leaders with having given the terrorists light and heavy weapons and financial aid, adding that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn "perhaps is not an agent in the pay of imperialism and Zionism, but he acts in collusion with them".

On Iran's long-running dispute with Iraq over ownership of three small islands in the Hormuz Strait at the entrance to the Gulf, occupied in 1971 by the shah's army, Ayatollah Khalkhali declared: "We will always keep them."

Comment on Assassination Attempt

JN042039 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Apr 80 JN

[Ahmad al-Katib commentary]

[Excerpts] The abortive attempt on the life of Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz at Al-Mustansiriyah University a few days ago calls for a brief pause.

That attempt was not an isolated incident, but part of the general national struggle against imperialism and the criminal regime in power. It was not a bomb that missed its target, but part of a big explosion in Iraq these days that is bound to hit all its targets soon and uproot imperialism and that dictatorship.

We have to pause to consider the motives for this operation, the circumstances surrounding it and the Iraqi regime's attempt at blaming the Iranian revolution for it. First, this heroic operation comes in the wake of a long series of heroic fedayeen operations by the Iraqi people against the hangmen and mercenaries of the Ba'thist regime. These operations, which have been going on for months, are the Iraqi people's answer to the existing atmosphere of violence, terrorism and dictatorship which has worsened since Saddam Husayn took complete power last summer.

Second, this operation took place in a university campus, after the terrorist regime has desecrated all holy places and violated the sanctity of universities and educational institutions by transferring its terrorism, dictatorship and suppression to them.

Third, this operation will not be the last. It was not an act of desperation or an attempt to wrest leadership, but part of the revolutionary march of all the Iraqi people, who are now attacking their enemy to regain their lost freedom, resources and dignity and to run their own affairs.

Let us go back to the story of the heroic attempt to assassinate the agent hagman Tariq 'Aziz a few days ago in Baghdad. The Ba'thist regime has overlooked the motives for the attempt and blamed Iran for it, claiming that the perpetrator was of Iranian origin. If the Ba'thist regime does believe in the idea of origin, then let it check the [word indistinct] and Masonic origin of Tariq 'Aziz and the British Jewish origin of its leader Saddam.

Let the Ba'thist regime understand that its attempts to evade the reality will be of no use. These attempts will not stop the march and the outbreak of the Islamic revolution in Iraq.

4 Apr Border Clash

JN061521 Tehran Domestic Service in Kurdish (Bahdinani) 1730 GMT 5 Apr 80 JN

[Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps in Qasr-e Shirin has announced that fighting took place between gunmen from the Iraqi Ba'th agents and the Iranian border forces in the region of Bushgan. The fighting began at 2130 yesterday and continued until midnight, but there were no casualties.

Kurdish Spokesman on Clashes

JN060644 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Apr 80 JN

[Text] A spokesman for the United Kurdish Socialist Party in Iraq today stated that during the past days several battles have been waged between Peshmergas and the Iraqi Ba'thist forces in various parts of Iraq's Kurdistan. The battles have resulted in the death of 69 soldiers of the Iraqi Ba'thist government, including 2 officers, while several others were wounded.

The spokesman said that during these battles the Kurdish revolutionaries captured a landrover, 33 Kalashnikov machineguns and other quantities of arms. The spokesman added that Peshmergas belonging to the party had attacked the As-Sulaymaniyah public security director and the Qal'at Dizah public security assistant director, wounding them and killing their bodyguards.

The spokesman said that Iraqi student demonstrations reached their peak during Now Ruz. Students raised slogans calling for freedom and stressing their support for the United Kurdish Socialist Party. The spokesman added that in the wake of these demonstrations, the Iraqi authorities arrested several of the demonstrators, tortured them and have not yet released them.

90 Executed in Iraq

JN060647 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Apr 80 JN

[Text] News from Iraq says that the tribal and police regime in Baghdad has committed a new bloody massacre against the heroic mujahidin. More than 90 mujahidan were executed without being brought to trial in Baghdad between 17-20 March 1980. They included ulema', university professors, physicians, engineers and teachers.

The bodies of the martyrs were handed over between 20-25 March 1980 in a desperate attempt by the despotic regime to check the escalating Islamic wave.

Religious Leader's Criticism

JN061038 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Apr 80 JN

[Text] In a speech he delivered at a religious ceremony held in the capital for those returning from Karbala', Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri explained his views on the Iraqi Ba'thist regime's stand, policy and crimes. He said: Saddam Husayn must realize that he will not be able to resist the Iraqi and Iranian Muslims. Hojjat ol-Eslam Nuri added that the struggling Iranian people, led by Ayatollah Khomeyni, support and assist the struggling and courageous Iraqi people.

Nuri said that the shameful Iraqi Government and Ba'thist regime, which are the offsprings of the imperialist United States and established by Michel 'Aflaq, the Jew and criminal Begin's ally, cannot be accepted by the Iraqi people because the Iraqi people are closely linked to and support men of religion.

At the end of his speech, the citizens returning from Karbala' issued a statement expressing their full support for the Islamic revolution in Iran and for Ayatollah Seyyed Muhammad Shirazi, a religious authority who was removed from his school of theology in Iraq by the Ba'thist regime.

Ba'th Party Denounced

JN061130 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0710 GMT 6 Mar 80 JN

[From the "Press Review"]

[Text] Under the headline "7 April Is the Anniversary of the Imperialist Conspiracy in Iraq," the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI publishes on its front page the statement issued by the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq on the occasion of the Ba'th Party's foundation.

The statement says: 7 April is the day the Ba'th Party was established by a number of Zionist mercenaries. It is the day when the biggest imperialist conspiracy against the Islamic nation was hatched.

The statement then deals with the ill-omened objectives for which this party was established by Michel 'Aflaq and Akram al-Hurani in 1947. This party's objectives are to deal blows to Islam and the Muslims and to strike at the Arab people.

The statement calls on all Muslim revolutionaries in Tehran to stage a sit-in strike at Tehran University that will begin tomorrow and last until Friday to protest the barbaric acts and massacres the Iraqi Ba'th Party is committing.

The statement points out some examples of this agent party's crimes and treason:

1. The assassination of leading elements of the Palestinian Liberation Movement.

2. Setting conditions for the help offered to the POLISARIO and Eritrean liberation movements by asking them to remain committed to the Ba'th Party's ideology. The result was that no help has been given them.

3. The agreement between the Ba'thist regime and its ally the defunct shah's regime on suspending Iraqi assistance to the Omani Liberation Front in exchange for the deposed shah's pledge to refrain from providing assistance to the Kurdish movement in Iraq. The statement calls for uprooting the Ba'thist regime in Iraq, demolishing the imperialist base on Iraqi land and strengthening the Muslim Iraqi people's struggle.

Demand About Gulf Islands

LD061712 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1637 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to AFP, Iraq today asked Iran to withdraw its forces from the three islands: Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa. AFP, quoting Sa'dun Hammadi, minister of foreign affairs of Iraq, reported that in a message to Kurt Waldheim, secretary general of the United Nations, Hammadi stated that his country does not recognize Iran's ownership of these islands and its [word indistinct].

The Iraqi minister of foreign affairs invited the Government of Iran in his message to stop pursuing its expansionist, aggressive and threatening attitudes and to stop interfering in the internal affairs of Arab countries in the Persian Gulf region, and to respect these countries' sovereignty and independence.

Demand Denounced

LD061851 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1638 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to AFP from Baghdad, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs today in a statement announced that Manuchehr Bigdeli, second secretary of the Iranian Embassy in Iraq, has been declared a persona non grata and should leave this country within the next 24 hours.

The Iraqi News Agency stated in its report that this decision was arrived at following the detention and deportation of an Iraqi diplomat in the Iraqi Embassy in Tehran. It is noteworthy that this decision of the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been made when the Government of Iraq has asked Tehran to withdraw its forces from the three Persian Gulf islands and following the assassinations last Tuesday and Saturday in Iraq which resulted in three killed and a number injured. Iraqi officials have connected these incidents with Iranians.

Following the AFP report regarding the fact that the Government of Iraq has asked Iran to withdraw its forces from the islands of Greater Tunb Lesser and Tunb Abu Musa, the press and cultural adviser of the office of the president tonight, in a telephone conversation, replying to the utterances of the Iraqi Government, stated: [begin recording]

I would say in answer to the nonsense uttered by the Ba'th government of Iraq that it is in a state of delirium preceding death. In our dear Persian language there is a saying which goes: When a fly feels death approaching it flies towards the sea. Now it seems that death is approaching the Ba'th government of Iraq since it is buzzing, dreams of the sea and dreams of making us withdraw from our islands Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb and Abu Musa in the Persian Gulf.

But the straw-stuffed Ba'th government of Iraq, this puppet of world-devouring imperialism, should know that the men, women and children in Iran will not allow the likes of the Iraqi Government to harbor any evil designs towards one inch of this holy Islamic soil. As our dear, esteemed leader Imam Khomeyni stated: We should tell him [the Iraqi Government] that your boss, the United States, was not able to do anything, and you do not even count as an entity by yourself. We should only tell you that the domain of a phoenix is not a place for you to roam, you fly, since you will only disgrace yourself and bother us. [end recording]

Expulsions From Iraq

LD061918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1705 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to our reporter in Ilam, the inhumane Iraqi Ba'thist regime has forced thousands of Muslim brothers and sisters to leave that country in the most disgraceful manner on charges of being Shi'ite Muslims and opposing the bloodsucking regime of Saddam Husayn, and it has transported them to the border town of Dehloran by dump trucks in the hot weather of the region. This has resulted in injury to a great number of children, old men and women. As soon as the news was heard, the political deputy of Ilam's governor general, the staff commander of Mermanshahan gendarmerie and the commander of Ilam Gendarmerie Regiment arrived in the region by helicopter and investigated the matter at first hand. Some doctors with medicine also arrived with this group.

The deputy governor general of Ilam, while confirming this report, in an interview with our reporter condemned the throwing out of this group of our Muslim brothers and sisters by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime and welcomed them to the country of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He ordered that they should be provided with facilities for their comfort before the arrival of [word indistinct]. The inhabitants of the border regions of Dehloran, Mehran and Ilam put all their resources at the disposal of their brothers and sisters as soon as they heard of their expulsion from Iraq.

The people who were expelled from Iraq started shouting slogans uch as "Islam is a victory and Saddam Husayn will be killed," when they saw the zealous people of Dehloran, Ilam and Mehran, and they embraced one another.

Iraqi agents had beaten and injured these people when trying to expel them, as a result of which one Iranian had been killed and several others wounded. According to our reporters, those expelled and who are at present in Dehloran will, with the help of the people of Dehloran and government organizations, gradually be transferred to special camps provided for them.

The governor general of Ilam, in a statement, thanked people and organizations that have assisted him in this affair.

It must be mentioned that the security forces are carefully watching all the occurrences.

The same report indicates that the Iraqi Ba'thist regime has confiscated all the property of the expelled people. A center has been opened in the Governorate of Ilam to assist these people.

GOVERNMENT TO STOP GAS EXPORTS TO USSR

LD061102 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0941 GMT 6 Apr 80 LD

[Text] According to PARS NEWS AGENCY, following the uncompromising attitude that the Soviet delegation adopted during talks regarding the payment of the just rights of the Iranian nation [as heard], the Oil Ministry spokesman has announced: Considering the approval of the Revolution Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran and in order to safe-guard national interests and honor, it had been preferred that the export of gas to the Soviet Union should be stopped.

Therefore, the National Iranian Gas Company was ordered by the oil minister to make very certain that Iranian gas is not exported to USSR, and in order that the surplus gas is used inside the country, a crash plan should be prepared as soon as possible and sent to the Oil Ministry so that it may be implemented immediately.

It was also stressed that, without considering the existing economic viability assessments, priority should be given to the supply of gas to small towns and villages, because the best economic justifications is that our compatriots should use gas, rather than giving cheap gas to others or burning it in the desert.